

USPN 10/605,830
Art Unit 3749
Amdt dated 01/025/2005
Reply to Office action of 10/25/2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0003] by the following amended paragraph:

[0003] Boilers produce steam under pressure. The higher the pressure, the greater the temperature. In the prior art, when the blowdown process is executed, the hot boiler water at operating pressure is piped to a blowdown tank. The change in pressure between operating pressure and atmospheric pressure, results in the formation of a steam plume. The size of this plume is dependent upon the operating pressure and temperature. The higher the pressure, the greater the plume that is generated.

Please replace paragraph [0011] by the following amended paragraph:

[0011] In one embodiment the flash steam actually condenses in the feedwater so that both the thermal energy contained in the steam (consisting of the latent heat of condensation and sensible heat) and the water volume itself are recovered. ~~The flash steam can, for example, be directed into a steam muffler immersed in the feedwater.~~